

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a method of producing an optical element without the need for high vacuum, unlike the thin  
5 film deposition methods, and without using a molten salt. More specifically, the invention provides a method of producing an optical element comprising applying a paste containing at least one compound selected from lithium compounds, potassium compounds, rubidium compounds, cesium compounds, silver compounds, and  
10 thallium compounds, an organic resin, and an organic solvent to a glass substrate containing an alkali metal component as a glass component and then performing heat treatment at a temperature below the softening temperature of the glass substrate.